

REMARKS

Claims 189-196 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 117, 120-127, 129, 130, 132-134, 137-147, 149-151 and 154-188 are canceled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 189-196 are allowed.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 145, 178 and 179-188 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Sauer (U.S. Patent No. 5,624,428), and claims 117-127, 129, 130, 133, 134, 137-144, 146, 147, 149-151 and 155-177 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sauer. The rejected claims are now canceled so as to render this rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Should anything further be required to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If any fee is deemed necessary to preserve the pendency of the subject application, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted
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